

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 with the following:

Figure 6-5 is a modified block diagram showing the data path in a modified decoder, featuring a double syndrome buffer. Parts having the same functions are numbered as in Figure 2. Significant changes are in the out error corrector 206, where a syndrome buffer used by both the outer syndrome generator 216 and the outer error corrector 218 has been duplicated. Two syndrome buffers 230A and 230B are provided, each capable of holding one complete outer syndrome (182 x 16 bytes). Via selection circuits 232 and 234, one of the buffers is connected to a syndrome generator 216 while the other is connected to the outer error corrector 218. User data after the inner ERCO circuit 204 is stored directly to the buffer 208 via buffer manager 236. Buffer manager 236 also permits the outer error corrector 218 to access the stored user data.

Page 15, line 5, replace the paragraph beginning "Figure 8(a)" with the following:

Figure 8(a) shows the block diagram of a system with buffer-less recombination where a multiplexer 720 is used to transfer the incoming data bytes into the EFM+ decoder. Alternative arrangement (b), of which the front end only is shown, has a separate EFM+ demodulator for each channel, and the multiplexer 721 feeds into the row buffer of the inner error corrector section. The operation of the two variants embodiments is similar. However, the volume of data passing through the multiplexer will be much less in case (b). A dynamic syndrome buffer 722 is provided, in association with the outer ERCO circuitry, as will be described in more detail, with reference to Figure 9.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 17 and 18 with the following:

The central element of the inner correction section is the row buffer 710 as it is used to reconstruct the data coming in from EFM demodulation into PI-codewords, identify completed codewords and initiate syndrome generation at 712, hand syndromes

over to the error corrector 714 and ensure that corrections are written back into the row buffer. Furthermore, the data after inner correction must be transferred to the outer error correction section. The row buffer 710 is notionally divided, as shown by ~~dotted~~-dashed boundaries in Figure 9, according to these four functions.

Page 22, line 20, replace the paragraph beginning "Figure 11" with the following:

Figure ~~11~~10 shows in more detail the buffer manager (corresponding to block 513 in Figure 6) that receives the data and the outer corrections coming from the DVD error corrector (~~Figure 10~~) and stores them in the external DRAM 920 or other memory. Interface logic 922 manages the addressing and transfer of input data being read from the disc, corrections, partial syndromes and output data being retrieved and streamed out via the host interface (512 in Figure 6).